

- 11 The level crossing gates are progressively being manned in a phased manner.

**Increase in Passenger Traffic in Metro Routes**

2918. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Railways are contemplating to meet the increasing demand of passenger traffic on routes connecting four metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta and Chennai; and

(b) by when the confirmed reservation on the day of journey on trains to above cities will be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Railways take various steps like introduction of new trains between metros, increasing the frequencies of the trains and augmentation of the trains. This is a continuous exercise subject to availability of resources, operational feasibility and commercial viability. During 2000-2001, the following additional services between the metropolitan cities are being provided:—

1. 2313/2314 Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani between Calcutta and New Delhi introduced w.e.f. 1.7.2000.
2. Increase in frequency of 2951/2952 New Delhi- Mumbai Rajdhani Express from 6 days a week to daily.
3. Increase in frequency of 2953/2954 New Delhi- Mumbai August Kranti Rajdhani Express from 6 days a week to daily.

Since availability of path is a major constraint for introduction of new trains, Railways are augmenting the loads of trains to 24 coaches to the extent feasible and justified. The following trains have been augmented to 24 coaches between the metros:—

1. 2615 / 2616 N. Delhi-Chennai GT Express w.e. f 5.5.1999.
2. 2612 / 2622 New Delhi-Chennai Tamilnadu Express w.e.f 5.5.1999.
3. 2471 / 2472 Jammu Mumbai Express w.e.f. 16.6.2000.

However, during the summer vacations / Pujas special trains are run to clear the extra rush.

(b) The demand for reserved accommodation varies from train to train, sector to sector and season to season. In fact, it also varies on day to day basis, e.g. on weekend, the demand is considerably more as compared to weekdays. As such, while the accommodation may be available in some trains at short notice, there may be heavy waiting list in others. However, in order to provide confirmed reservation to the passengers who plan their journey at short notice, railways have introduced Tatkal Scheme in certain trains the reservation for which starts at 0800 A.M. on the previous day of the journey.

**Rail Route between Barh-Kondi-Ajgara-Dahma-Barbigha**

† 2919. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-availability of any means of transportation, there is a acute need for rail-route between Barh - Kondi - Ajgara Dahma - Barbigha,

(b) whether social and economic development of this most backward area would be possible if this route is connected with rail line,

(c) if so, whether Government propose to start train-services after completing survey on the said route at the earliest.

(d) if so, by when such work is likely to be completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

(a) The need of transportation in a region can be met with by different means e.g. rail, road or water ways. So far as new railway lines are concerned, national Transport Policy Committee have laid down the criteria for taking up of new railway lines.

(b) For socio-economic development of a backward region, apart from transportation, development in the several other sectors is also necessary. Investment in transport by itself may not lead to socio- economic development.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal for a new rail route between Barh and Barbigha via Kondi, Ajgara and Dahma due to large shelf of ongoing new rail line projects and acute constrian of resources.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.